

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /061 W

----- 051500

R 250757Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: WILL THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE KMT CENTRAL
COMMITTEE SELECT A NEW PARTY LEADER?

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TAIPEI 2088

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE APRIL 25 EDITORIAL IN THE OFFICIAL CHUNG YANG JIH (PAO
(CYJP) URGED APRIL 28 EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE KMT CENTRAL
COMMITTEE TO SELECT A NEW KMT PARTY LEADER, WHO COULD LATER BE
CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS. FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM THE EDITORIAL:

2. "OUR PARTY, WHICH IS THE NATION'S POLITICAL POWER
GENERATOR, MUST NOT BE VOID OF A STRONG LEADER AT THE
CENTRAL LEVEL. THE QUESTION IS: HOW SHOULD THE NEW LEADER
BE PRODUCED? ACCORDING TO THE PARTY CONSTITUTION, THE NEW
LEADER OUGHT TO BE DECIDED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS BUT...

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THIS SLOW PROCEDURE CANNOT MEET THE NEED OF EMERGENCY

AND MAY DELAY MAJOR NATIONAL MATTERS. ARTICLE 12, CHAPTER 3 OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION CLEARLY STIPULATES THAT WHEN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS IS NOT IN SESSION, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS THE POWER ORGAN AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL. SO IT IS BOTH APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS MATTER...

3. "WE BELIEVE THAT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PARTY'S VETERAN MEMBERS, THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEFINITELY WILL ELECT A NEW LEADER WHO IS RESPECTED BY THE WHOLE PARTY, WHO CAN COMMAND THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE AND CAPABLE OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS. (COMMENTS: THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A REFERENCE TO PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO.) THE DECISION NATURALLY WILL HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE FUTURE 11TH NATIONAL CONGRESS....

4. "THERE HAS BEEN NO SECOND TSUNGLI AFTER DR. SUN YAT-SEN AND IT WILL NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A SECOND TSUNG TSAI AFTER CKS. SO WE SUGGEST THAT THE TITLE OF TSUNG TSAI BE RESERVED AS A PERMANENT MEMORIAL." THIS IDEA HAS ALREADY RECEIVED WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT IN THE PARTY....

5. "SINCE THE NATION IS FACED WITH THE CARDINAL ENEMY, IT NEEDS THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP OF THE RULING PARTYFOR THIS REASON, THE NEW CENTER OF GRAVITY OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP MUST BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

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6. COMMENT: IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, A HIGHLY-PLACED KMT OFFICIAL STATED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE APRIL 28 MEETING WOULD BE TO REAFFIRM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT FOR THE LATE PRESIDENT
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CHIANG'S WILL AND BLANDLY DENIED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MEETING MIGHT CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF OR SELECT A NEW PARTY LEADER (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MIGHT CALL FOR A NATIONAL CONGRESS LATE THIS YEAR). HOWEVER, THE CYJP, WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE KMT AND USUALLY FOLLOWS THE OFFICIAL LINE IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE PUBLISHED THE ABOVE EDITORIAL IN THE ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE FROM

KMT LEADERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI02246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-1045
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaanoh.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TAIPEI 2088
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILL THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE SELECT A NEW PARTY LEADER?
TAGS: PINT, TW, KMT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006